INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM - SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

Legislation was implemented by the Connecticut State Legislature with the intent of reducing to the greatest extent possible the amount of pesticides and herbicides used in and around public schools. The Colchester Board of Education approved a policy regarding the implementation and administration of a district wide integrated pest management program (IPM program) in October 2000. Legislation was later passed that restricts the use of herbicides on school grounds in grades K through 8.

A summary of the legislation follows:

Note: The term "pesticides" used throughout includes "herbicides" as well.

- Annually parents, guardians and staff will be notified that the BOE has an established IPM policy, be provided with a summary of the policy, and be advised that upon request they will be notified in advance of any pesticide application (except in an emergency situation). The annual notification will be included in each school's Student Handbook and be posted on the District's Website.
- **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF YOUR SCHOOL'S PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS PLEASE SEND A LETTER TO YOUR APPLICABLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REQUESTING THE NOTIFICATION. INCLUDE IN THE LETTER A DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER THAT YOU CAN BE CONTACTED AT. YOU WILL SUBSEQUENTLY BE NOTIFIED BY TELEPHONE AT LEAST TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE APPLICATION.**
- Pesticides in schools and on school grounds can only be applied by a State certified pest control applicator. No pesticides applications can be done while school is in session or during after school activities (except in an emergency situation as defined by CT General Statutes).
- There are mandatory long-term record keeping requirements for all pesticide applications.
- Pesticides are to be utilized on an as needed basis only, rather than the traditional periodic treatment approach. Glue strips are utilized to monitor pest activity in key locations (kitchens, food storage areas, teacher lounges, family and consumer science classrooms, etc.). The glue strips are checked monthly by the contracted pest control applicator and if no pest infestation is noted no pesticides are applied. If a problem is noted an application is subsequently scheduled around school activity and parents and staff on the established notification list are notified.

To promote a successful IPM Program the following will be addressed:

- The staff, including teachers, custodians and cafeteria workers will be trained regarding the program.
- At each school the building envelope will be maintained to prevent pest infestations (cracks are sealed, weather stripping is maintained, vents and air intakes are screened, etc.).
- Proper food storage procedures will be implemented and monitored.
- Food usage, to the greatest extent possible, will be limited to certain areas of the school.

A complete listing of the pesticides and herbicides to be used in our schools if required is on file with the Director of Educational Operations. If you have any questions regarding the Integrated Pest Management Program, or the Board of Education's implementation thereof, please do not hesitate to contact Mario Hurtado, Director of Educational Operations.
Telephone: 860 537-2296 Email: mhurtado@colchester.org Web: www.colchester.org